‘MAGIC MIKE’ IS FOR BROS TOO

COME ON, LOOSEN UP, STRAIGHT MEN. PAGE 13

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¡ESTÁS DESPEDIDO!

You’re fired! My, how the tables have turned, Mr. Trump. It turns out, you’re the one who is now fired. PAGE 02

NBCUniversal cut ties with Donald Trump and his “Miss USA” and “Miss Universe” shows on Monday after he made derogatory comments about Mexicans. / GETTY IMAGES

Your subway train’s age revealed

PAGE 04

Sex secrets from inside the Playboy Mansion

PAGE 14

US faces Germany tonight in World Cup

PAGE 20

1 NEWS

On Metro.us

Rent board votes on lease hikes

A meeting of The Rent Guidelines Board was happening Monday night as Metro went to press. The board planned to decide whether to increase rents for more than one million rent-stabilized apartments just days after state lawmakers agreed to extend rent regulations for another four years. Visit Metro.us/NewYork this morning for an update on the board's vote, which was to be held at Cooper Union's Great Hall in Manhattan.

Get the latest

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NBC fires Trump over his Mexican remarks

Let go. Trump's provocative comments were the latest in a series of swipes against our southern neighbor.

NBC ended its relationship with real estate developer and TV personality Donald Trump and his "Miss USA" and "Miss Universe" pageants on Monday after he made comments insulting Mexicans when he began his run for president.

The pageants, which are part of a joint venture between NBCUniversal and Trump, would no longer air on NBC "due to the recent derogatory statements by Donald Trump regarding immigrants" the company said in a press release.

Trump was already not going to take part in "The Apprentice" on NBC, a show in which he uses "You're Fired!" as his signature command to eliminate contestants. NBC said "Celebrity Apprentice" licensed from United Artists Media Group would continue. Univision said on Thursday that it would not air the Miss USA pageant on July 12 because of Trump's remarks. Trump's lawyer said the billionaire would sue the U.S. Spanish-language TV network.

Trump said on Monday after the NBC announcement that he was no longer affiliated with the broadcaster but stood by his campaign trail comments.

"Mr. Trump stands by his statements on illegal immigration, which are accurate. NBC is weak, and like everybody else is trying to be politically correct - that is why our country is in serious trouble," a Trump Organization statement said.

Trump, in announcing on June 16 that he was seeking the Republican Party nomination for the November 2016 presidential election, described migrants from Mexico to the United States as drug-runners and rapists.

Mexicans rich and poor, cabinet ministers and staunch critics of the government alike reacted angrily to Trump. Trump defended his more divisive remarks on the grounds that he was worried about border security, jobs in the United States and trade arrangements.

Univision said it would also sever ties with the Miss Universe Organization, a joint venture between Trump and Comcast-owned NBCUniversal.

REUTERS

Trump also made inflammatory comments about fellow Republicans. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"They're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime, they're rapists, and some I assume are good people, but I speak to border guards and they tell us what we are getting."

Trump said in opening his campaign

Had enough of him? Take a swing at the Donald Trump piñata

Donald Trump has been officially running for president for about two weeks and has already managed to piss off an entire country: Mexico.

Naturally, Trump's words have inspired outrage in both the U.S. and Mexico. As a response, piñata effigies of the candiate have been growing in popularity in Mexico.

We caught up with the creator of the Donald Trump piñatas, Dalton Ramirez, who explained what inspired him to turn Donald Trump into a piñata, why they're so popular and who his next target is.

Why did you make a piñata of Donald Trump?
It occurred to us to do the piñata of Donald Trump as a form of protest. To respond, in our own way, to his comments on our Mexican countrymen. Since our place is in a border town where we see the [immigration] battle and how the problem can cause discrimination.

How do you make the piñatas?
The piñatas are made of newspaper and cardboard [stuck together] with paste and glue. For the bigger piñatas we use wire to form the body.

Do you have plans to sell them to customers on the internet?
We are researching shipping the piñatas because so many people in the United States want the piñata. We also hope to send them to other places, like England.

What other politicians are you thinking of turning into piñatas?
These days we hope to make a piñata that we had planned before Donald Trump, which is addressed to our immigrant friends in the United States. The piñata will be released in early July.

MATT LEE, METRO

THE TRUMP PIÑATA /FACEBOOK

Question

How many have you sold?

We've made about 20 Donald Trump piñatas. A lot of people are asking to make more of them. I think the Donald Trump piñatas are popular because many people are upset with him.

Crime

Cops search for man who flashed young girls in Queens

The search continues for a man accused of exposing himself to two young girls in Elmhurst, Queens within the past two months.

The first incident occurred on May 28 at approximately 3 p.m. when the suspect allegedly flashed a 10-year-old girl, police said. She was sitting in a park car with the passenger side door open on Grand Avenue and 79th Street.

The suspect / NYPD

On June 24 at around 7 a.m., the same man supposedly exposed himself to a 12-year-old girl sitting in a parked car near Calamus and Grand Avenues, according to the authorities.

Police released two sketches to aid in capturing the man. The man is described as a white or Hispanic male with black spiked up hair believed to be between 5-feet-8 and 5-feet-10.

The suspect has yet to be apprehended. Police ask that anyone with information call Crime Stoppers at 800-577-TIPS.

YALDA MOSTAJERAN

NJ man charged with conspiring with ISIS

Terror ties. A man was arrested for allegedly providing material support to ISIS.

A New Jersey man was arrested early Monday for allegedly planning to provide materials and support to the terror organization Islamic State (ISIS), according to the New Jersey Department of Justice.

Alaa Saadeh, 23, a Hudson County resident, was charged with allegedly conspiring to provide services and personnel to ISIS, and tampering with a witness trying to get them to lie to the FBI.

Saadeh didn't enter a plea Monday in Newark federal court and was held without bail afterward, NBC reported.

Saadeh's 17-year-old brother supposedly co-conspired with him to aid ISIS. Samuel Rahamin Topaz, from Fort Lee, New Jersey, was also named as a co-conspirator.

An anonymous tipster told the FBI and Joint Terrorism Task Force that the brothers allegedly said the United States has "concentration camps for Muslims."

Officials used a search warrant to investigate Saadeh's brother's search history. Reportedly, he looked up multiple ISIS websites, propaganda and two-way tickets to Turkey, according to court documents.

Quoted

"Given the state of the world we live in, currently everyone is going to stand up now and no one is going to stay quiet."

Saadeh supposedly said, according to FBI documents

With the Fourth of July approaching, the Department of Homeland Security, FBI and National Counterterrorism Center issued a bulletin urging law enforcement to stay alert during this high-profile holiday period.

YALDA MOSTAJERAN
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NYC. Three places to pamper your puppy

City dogs want to enjoy the summer too. / ISTOCK

Few can argue that New York City isn't home to some of the world's most pampered pooches. (I've literally sat next to a dog getting her nails painted at an Upper East Side nail salon.) But puppy manicures aside, there are more than a few local luxury services dishing out the royal treatment for dogs. Here a few of the most over-the-top doggy services NYC has to offer.

1. New York Dog Nanny
126 Lexington Avenue, 2nd Floor
The offices of New York Dog Nanny feel more like a spa for humans than for our four-legged friends. The sleek, luxury operation touts grooming services, dog walking, obedience training, pet sitting and more. But it's really their holistic services that make them a stand-out location.

"Dogs are creatures that, like people, thrive when mentally stimulated," says owner Cynthia Okimoto. "We're a really quirky staff, and we sing and howl with our pups on a daily basis."

They also offer relaxation services like reiki to help boost your dog's immune system.

2. The Salty Paw
38 Peck Slip
If you're looking to dial up your dog's style, then The Salty Paw is your spot. Pups have been known to leave this boutique with mohawks and dyed hair.

"Our team also has expertise in pet-friendly hair dyes for those who enjoy their four-legged friends to have a pop of color," says manager Janet Carhuayano. "Our coloring skills even caught the attention of fashion designer Isaac Mizrahi, who commissioned our groom spa to dye and style poodles to match his fall collection at Fashion Week."

3. Unleashed Spa
218 Avenue B
While some pet owners would rather bathe their own dogs, cramped city apartments can make that a difficult task. Enter Unleashed Spa, down in the East Village, which gives customers the option of using one of their washing stations.

"We provide a self-serve dog wash for those customers who prefer to wash the dogs themselves," says manager Kim Gallagher. "We take great pride in approaching grooming from the customer's perspective, and I believe that has driven our success."

For the truly pampered pup, check out the blueberry facial. **MARIANNE HAYES**

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How old is your subway train?

Past their prime. Metro breaks down the ages of MTA subway cars.

Last month, as the end of Albany's legislative session loomed without an agreement to fund the $14 billion gap in the MTA's Capital Program, transit advocates staged a premature funeral to mourn the potential loss of new subway cars.

Which got Metro wondering: How old is the subway train you're sitting on right now?

If you're riding a C, J or Z train, it could have been built in 1964, the last chance to be born a baby boomer, the year Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. won the Nobel Peace Prize and when The Beatles' "I Want to Hold Your Hand" topped the charts. A stamp cost 5 cents, and a trip to the movies $1.25.

The MTA currently has 222 of the R-32 "Brightliners" running on the C, J and Z lines.

The MTA's youngest cars were introduced the year the Secret Service cut three agents' assignments short, sending them home from the Netherlands after a night of drinking that left one passed out in a hotel hallway.

That same year, LeBron James returned to Cleveland, and the world's most eligible bachelor, George Clooney, got hitched. Sound familiar? It just happened. In 2014, 91 new R-188 trains were put into service on the 7 line.

The age of New York City subway trains varies by model type and the year they were put into service.

The MTA is expecting to introduce a new class of R-179 trains, still in production upstate, in 2017 to replace the oldest trains in the system.

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE
Wendy.Biddlecombe@metro.us

Ages of trains

The ages of trains in service were in public records provided by the MTA.

- Total number of MTA subway cars in service: 6,383
- Average age: 19
- Oldest car: 51 years
- Youngest car: 1 year
- Ideal retirement age: 40

Age of service by line:

- 1 train: 28-31 years
- 2 train: 12-15 years
- 3 train: 30-31 years
- 4 train: 10-15 years
- 5 train: 12-15 years
- 6 train: 10-30 years
- 7 train: 1-30 years
- A train: 38-40 years
- B: 26-29 years
- C: 5-51 years
- D: 27-29 years
- E: 5-8 years
- F: 5-40 years
- G: 27-29 years
- J, Z: 5-51 years
- L: 12-13 years
- M, N, Q: 5-8 years
- R: 5-40 years
- Shuttle: 27-40 years

Transit riders sit on a Manhattan-bound C train at Hoyt Schermehorn in Brooklyn. / MILES DIXON, METRO

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Shot New York prison escapee is in serious but stable condition

Status. The hospital said David Sweat will remain there for at least a few days while his condition stabilizes.

Seth Lockwood, 10 and his sister Riley, 12, give thanks to New York State Troopers following the capture of convicted murderer David Sweat in Malone, New York. / GETTY IMAGES

Doctors updated the condition of New York prison escapee David Sweat to serious from critical on Monday, a day after he was shot by police after more than three weeks on the run, hospital officials said.

Sweat, 35, is being treated in the state capital where a trauma team at Albany Medical Center determined that the convict did not require surgery, the hospital said in a statement.

He was arrested near New York's border with Canada two days after border patrol agents fatally shot his fellow escapee, Richard Matt, 49, following an intense manhunt launched after the convicted killers were discovered missing from the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, New York, on June 6.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo told NY1 News on Monday Sweat was in shock. No additional information about his condition was available.

Sgt. Jay Cook of the New York State Police was on patrol alone when he spotted Sweat on a road on Sunday afternoon. The fugitive took off running and the officer shot him twice in the torso.

Photographs surfaced on the Internet of the arrest of Sweat, who was unarmed and appeared bloody and slumped over as law enforcement officers tended to him.

Sweat was captured in Constable, about 40 miles northeast of Dannemora and less than two miles south of the Canadian border.

Police located Matt on Friday in Duane, 23 miles south of Constable, and killed him when he failed to comply with an order to drop his shotgun.

Some 1,300 law-enforcement officials searched for the convicts.

Matt and Sweat split up five days ago when the younger Sweat decided Matt was slowing him down, Cuomo said.

Matt, who turned 49 the day before he died, had bug bites, blisters and abrasions, according to autopsy results.

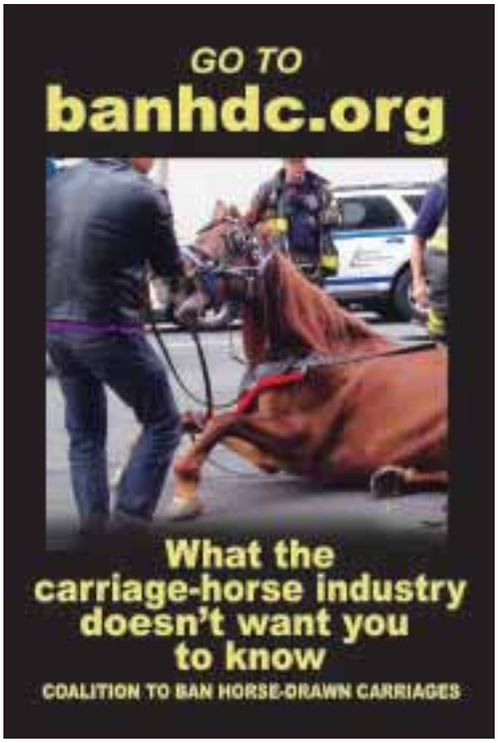
The pair planned to drive to Mexico with the help of prison employee Joyce Mitchell, who is charged with helping in the escape, Cuomo said in a WCNY radio interview.

Mitchell has told investigators she was supposed to drive the getaway car but checked into a hospital instead complaining of panic attacks. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"This plot was 'Shawshank Redemption' meets 'Cool Hand Luke.'" Cuomo

NY State Police Sgt. Jay Cook
NY STATE POLICE



OMG! The world will experience a 61-second minute

The "leap second"/ FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

The so-called "leap second" will be added to clocks on June 30 at 23:59:60 universal time (UTC). The extra second will be introduced in order to synchronize atomic clocks to the Earth's ever-slowing rotation. The time adjustment sounds controversial but insiders believe it necessary. "If we ignore the leap second, in several thousand years you would have your breakfast at noon," Daniel Gambis, head of the International Earth Rotation Service (IERS) in Paris, told Metro.

Why introduce the "leap second"?
In the past, the reference time used all over the world was based on the solar time or the rotation of the Earth. But ever since the Earth's variation was discovered to be non-uniform, the reference time adopted in the beginning of the 1970s was switched to the atomic time based on atom properties. In 1972, UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) was introduced; it's based on atomic time and constrained to be close (within one second) of the solar time. When the difference between these two clocks approaches one second, it is necessary to reset the clocks by introducing a leap second in UTC. The Earth Rotation Service has the task to predict when a leap second needs to be introduced.

What problems could this "leap second" cause?
If the leap second prediction is not taken into account to reset UTC, some problems can arise in systems using precise timing (network synchronization, computer systems). The airplane reservation system Amadeus for Qantas crashed in 2012 …

Have we experienced "61 seconds in a minute" before?
Yes, 25 times since 1972.

If the standard time would fall out of sync with the Earth's rotation, what would happen?
If the reference time based on atomic time is decoupled from the solar time, both clocks will diverge. One second, two seconds, 10 seconds, one minute. … In about 3,000 years, there will be one hour difference between the two clocks. In several thousand years you would have breakfast at noon.

What does the future hold for Earth's time?
In November 2015, there will be a meeting at the ITU (International Telecommunication Union) in Geneva, Switzerland. Representatives of countries across the world will decide on the future of UTC: continue the leap seconds adjustment procedure in UTC or an alternative solution, maybe based on the suppression of this process. In that case, the time of reference based on atomic time would be decoupled from the rotation of the Earth.

DMITRY BELYAEV, MWN

Visit us online at **Metro.us/omg** for more interviews.

Question

The 'leap second' has its detractors. Why so?

The system of introducing leap seconds in UTC presents different drawbacks for various communities (like satellite navigation, computer network synchronization, financial markets, etc.) which favor a continuous time scale without any jump. Still, this system remains a good compromise to maintain the reference time close to the solar time. There have been many debates in the scientific community but no consensus emerged so far to change the system.

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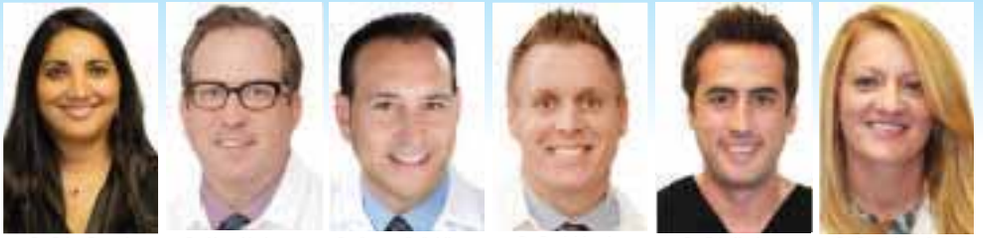

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Bottoms up. It's the Christie campaign video drinking game

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie released a campaign video ahead of an announcement that he will run for the 2016 Republican nomination.

It's called "Telling It Like It Is," and the video is designed to reinforce Christie's reputation as a straight-talk man. It takes place at a town hall meeting.

Christie has seen his fortunes decline over questions surrounding the politically motivated lane closures on the George Washington Bridge.

In the video, Christie connects his often confrontational style with his mother's love, saying, "I know if my mom were still alive, she'd say to me: 'I taught you that in a trusting relationship, you don't hold anything back.' And if you're going to run for president, and you are going to ask these people for their vote, that the single most trusting thing they can do as a citizen is to give you their support, so you better tell them exactly what you are thinking and exactly what you are feeling. And when you ask about my moral compass, that's it. That's it." **DAN KELLEY, METRO**

Drink when you see:

Here are some things we missed in the video:

- An African-American person
- Any person of color
- Former Deputy Chief of Staff Bridget Kelly, who is currently under federal indictment in the Bridgegate scandal — or mentions of Bridgegate
- Christie saying anything about public policy
- More than three people who look to be under 25

The video

The video is part of a campaign plan that Politico, citing Christie advisers, is a "bank shot strategy," one that does without the piles of donor cash from the business establishment that Christie can no longer count on. His hope is "that by exceeding expectations in debates and town hall events, and by performing well in a few select primary contests, he can reestablish himself as a top-tier candidate."

Wall St. tumbles as investors flee equities on Greek debt crisis

Woes. U.S. investors also worried about Puerto Rico's debt problems and a bear market in China.

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in New York City. / GETTY IMAGES

U.S. stocks fell sharply in heavy trading on Monday and the S&P 500 and the Dow had their worst day since October after a collapse in Greek bailout talks intensified fears that the country could be the first to exit the euro zone.

The S&P and Dow Jones Industrial Average had their worst days since Oct. 9 and both turned slightly negative for the year to date. The last annual decline for both indexes was 2008. The Nasdaq had its biggest one-day percentage decline on Monday since March 25.

"There is no mechanism to be ejected from the European Union. This has never happened before," said Brian Battle, director of trading at Performance Trust Capital Partners in Chicago.

While the Greek economy is small and most U.S. corporations have limited direct exposure, investors are concerned about the fallout across Europe if Greece exits the euro zone.

Quoted

"When you don't know what could happen, you sell. You get on the sidelines."
Battle

A snap Reuters poll of economists and traders found a median 45 percent probability that Greece would leave the euro zone.

Chinese stocks had closed sharply lower after a volatile day of trading despite surprise monetary easing by the central bank.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 350.33 points, or 1.95 percent, to 17,596.35, the S&P 500 lost 43.85 points, or 2.09 percent, to 2,057.64 and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 122.04 points, or 2.4 percent, to 4,958.47.

The CBOE Volatility index, a measure of the premium traders, are willing to pay for protection against a drop in the S&P 500, jumped 34.5 percent to 18.86, its highest level in almost five months.

JPMorgan Chase, down 2.5 percent, was the biggest drag on the S&P financial sector, followed by Wells Fargo, down 2.4 percent. Goldman Sachs weighed the most on the Dow with a 2.6 percent decline.

Assured Guaranty fell 13.3 percent and MBIA Inc fell more than 23.4 percent after BTIG downgraded the insurers on concerns over Puerto Rico's debts. **REUTERS**

Obama signs trade bills into law, says tough battle ahead

Package. It also included aid for workers who lose their jobs as a result of trade.

President Barack Obama
GETTY IMAGES

President Barack Obama on Monday signed into law legislation that gives him "fast-track" power to push ahead on a Pacific Rim trade deal that has been the subject of intense debate in Congress and across the nation.

Flanked by some of the lawmakers who supported the bill through a six-week congressional battle, Obama acknowledged that his fight to secure the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership was far from over.

"We still have some tough negotiations that are going to be taking place," Obama said at a signing ceremony. He noted that lawmakers and the public will be able to scrutinize the trade deal before it is finalized. "The debate will not end with this bill signing," he said.

Obama wants the trade deal to be a central part of his administration's foreign policy pivot to Asia and to help serve as a counterweight to the economic might of China. He also hopes to complete an ambitious trade deal with the European Union.

Republicans, who traditionally support free trade deals, backed Obama and helped get the legislation through Congress. But they faced obstacles from skeptical Democrats, who worry the trade deal will hurt American jobs, and were pressured by unions to vote against the bills.

"I think it's fair to say that getting these bills through Congress has not been easy. They've been declared dead more than once," Obama said, thanking Republican leaders by name as well as Democratic supporters "who took tough votes" to get the bills passed. **REUTERS**

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Five things you need to know

1 Greece in shock as banks shut after snap referendum call

Stunned Greeks faced shuttered banks, long supermarket lines and overwhelming uncertainty on Monday as a breakdown in talks with international lenders plunged their country deep into crisis.

With Greece's bailout expiring on June 30 and an International Monetary Fund payment falling due at the same time, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras pleaded in vain by phone with European officials to extend the program until a referendum on July 5 on its future terms.

The frantic efforts to secure Greece's place within the eurozone followed a dramatic weekend. Tsipras' decision, early on Saturday, to put the aid package to a popular vote took the lenders by surprise and sent Greeks rushing to cash machines.

It also pushed Greece toward defaulting on 1.6 billion euros ($1.77 billion) due to the IMF on Tuesday, which would take it closer to an exit from the eurozone. A Greek official confirmed to Reuters that the payment would not be made. **REUTERS**

A line at an ATM after Greece closed its banks. / GETTY IMAGES

2 First marriage licenses for same-sex couples issued in Louisiana

The first marriage licenses to same-sex couples in Louisiana were issued on Monday after state officials held off for several days on implementing a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that legalized gay marriage nationwide.

Two women were granted a marriage license in Jefferson Parish near New Orleans.

The state's Republican attorney general, Buddy Caldwell, issued a statement after the high court ruling Friday saying that his office had "found nothing in today's decision that makes the court's order effective immediately." **REUTERS**

3 State Dept. to release more Clinton emails

The U.S. State Department said it would release on Tuesday the next tranche of emails from Hillary Clinton's tenure as secretary of state.

Department spokesman Mark Toner told reporters on Monday the emails would be released, but he had no further details.

Clinton, the frontrunner for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, has been criticized for her use of a private email address, connected to a computer server in her home, for her work correspondence while she was the nation's top diplomat. **REUTERS**

4 Ku Klux Klan fliers left on lawns in LA suburb

Ku Klux Klan propaganda fliers were left in front of houses in a Los Angeles suburb over the weekend, the second such incident in Southern California in a week, prompting homeowners to contact police.

Police in Whittier, California, about 12 miles southeast of Los Angeles, said in a statement the fliers touting the white supremacist group were found littered on lawns in one block on Sunday.

"Throughout the block, clear Ziploc bags ... contained fliers, a rock and pieces of candy," police said on Sunday. "No specific threats were noted on the fliers, and no crime has been established." **REUTERS**

5 Court agrees to weigh affirmative action in school admissions

The U.S. Supreme Court waded into a new major battle over the future of affirmative action in college admissions by agreeing to take up for the second time a challenge to the process for picking students used by the University of Texas.

The justices agreed to hear a case brought by Abigail Fisher, a white applicant who was denied admission to the entering class of 2008 at Texas' flagship state university. The court will review a July 2014 ruling by the New Orleans-based 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in favor of the university. **REUTERS**

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Nutrition awareness for NYC teens

Food Bank for New York City kicks off EATWISE, its summer nutrition awareness program for teens with NFL superstar and Food Bank ambassador Chris Canty at his Camp of Champions attended by Food Bank for New York City chief Max Hardy at George Washington High School Field in New York City. /GETTY IMAGES

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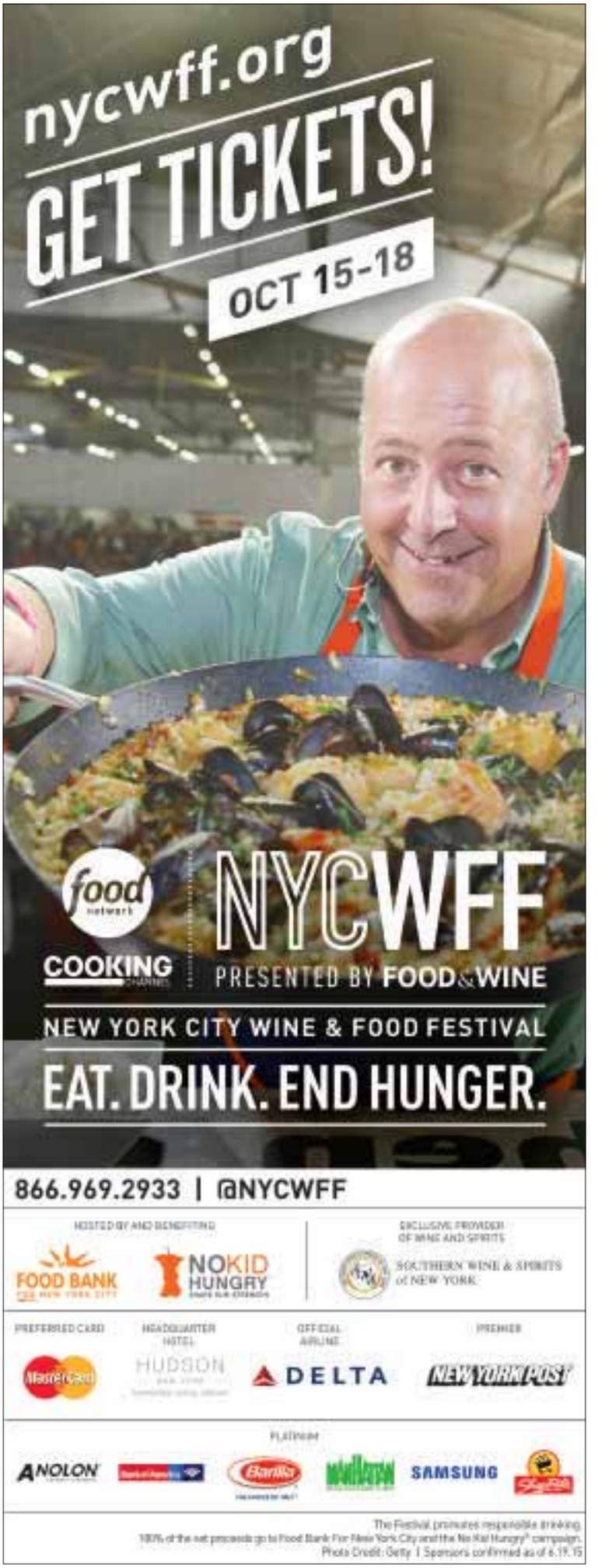

2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Chloe Grace Moretz has a bucket list, Steve Martin doesn't want to waste time, Ben Stiller is feeling a bit out of touch, RuPaul means business and Conan O'Brien is trying the Diddy workout.

@ChloeGMoretz: have to see the @RollingStones live in concert before I die

@SteveMartinToGo: What to do. I have no plans for the leap second this year.

@RedHourBen: I keep accidentally taking pictures of my apple watch. I don't quite understand what is happening. But I know I have done 11 hours of "standing".

@RuPaul: Today's Mantra: Bitches Better Beware

@ConanOBrien: Worked out with kettlebells this morning and didn't get arrested. What am I doing wrong?

1

Behold, the Kim Kardashian sex tape flag

If Kanye West squinted out into the crowd at his Glastonbury music festival headlining slot, he might have caught a glimpse of my favorite new flag. In protest of West's appearance at the fest, an audience member created a giant flag of a screen grab from Kim Kardashian's career-making sex tape with Ray J, along with a lyric from West's "Gold Digger." I'm pretty sure West didn't actually see it, as his head didn't explode, but I'm all for this. Now that the Confederate flag is on its way down the old pole, can I nominate this as a replacement?

@LUKEHOPSON91, TWITTER / GETTY IMAGES

2

More reasons to worry about 'Suicide Squad'

@DAVIDAYERMOVIES, TWITTER

If your big studio movie needs an on-set therapist, maybe that should be a big red flag. "David Ayer is about realism. So if your character is tormented, he wants you to torment yourself. He wants the real thing," star Adam Beach tells E! News about the atmosphere on set for the supervillain team-up movie. "We kind of have like a therapist on board if you fall off the wagon and really are villainous. There's a friend of David that's very unique in making sure we have our ground." Oh, good. As long as there's an unlicensed friend of the director's to keep things nice and healthy.

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

NED EHRBAR
@Nedrick
ned.ehrbar@metro.us

3

Doctor Shia!

Shia LaBeouf has been popping up in some odd places lately, morphing his public persona into some kind of bizarre performance art piece. But this — which he didn't necessarily have anything to do with — is just plain neat. Artist Brandon Bird has gone and rendered The Beef as all 13 incarnations of Doctor Who for … some reason. He makes a surprisingly good Time Lord in any era, but the 10th really looks the most natural. But maybe that's just the David Tennant fan in me.

BRANDONBIRD.COM

Amy Schumer has the best body issues responses

Every time Amy Schumer opens her mouth these days, more awesomeness spills out. The latest? She speaks up for her curves and against the body image issues rampant in Hollywood. "It's very therapeutic for me to be like, 'Yes, I'm not going to look like a malnourished bird,' and I like speaking to that, as well as speaking to my work and what I'm doing," she says, according to People magazine. That's a much more demure and even-toned take on the issue than how she phrased it in London when accepting a Woman of the Year award from Glamour: "I'm probably, like, 160 pounds right now, and I can catch a d— whenever I want," she said. "Like, that's the truth. It's not a problem."

GETTY IMAGES

Daily video

CINEMASINS, YOUTUBE

CinemaSins finally goes too far

Hugely popular YouTube channel CinemaSins has developed quite a reputation for nitpicking embarrassing Hollywood blockbuster blunders, but come on, guys. You can spoil the fun of Michael Bay's "Transformers" franchise all you want, but then you start pointing out flaws and logic problems with "Terminator 2: Judgment Day," possibly one of the most perfect action films of all time. "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines"? "Terminator: Salvation"? Sure, go to town. But you leave "T2" alone. Jerks.

Yes, straight dudes can enjoy 'Magic Mike' too

Channing Tatum, center, leads an army of six-packs in Steven Soderbergh's "Magic Mike." / WARNER BROS. PICTURES

In defense. The 2012 stripper dramedy and its new sequel were made for women and gay or bisexual men. But there's stuff for hetero bros, too.

It's really well-made

"Magic Mike" delivers the goods, which is to say junk thrusts toward the lens, plus Channing Tatum buttage by Minute 2. But it wasn't helmed by some exploitation hack; behind the lens was the guy nominated for two best director Oscars the same year. (He won for "Traffic" over "Erin Brockovich.") Steven Soderbergh gives it his usual detached, almost clinical tone, which helps downplay the script's occasional soapier, hoarier tendencies. And because he photographed it too (as he did "Magic Mike XXL," which he did not direct), it looks great, and not only when ripped alpha gods are strutting about.

It's about something

Stripping is a job, and "Magic Mike" never forgets it. In fact, it's very much a film in our world, namely one still caught up in the wake of the economic apocalypse. Tatum's Mike has a dream: creating an oddball furniture business. Money is always on everyone's mind. Sometimes they're even funny about it. In a scene where Mike tries and fails to get a loan from a bank, his exasperation is expressed in modern vernacular: "I read the news. I know the ones in distress are y'all." Speaking of which …

It's pretty funny

Along with boasting its star's dance moves and deeply impressive backflip abilities, "Magic Mike" is a showcase for Tatum's by now established comedic chops. He has a way with a mumbly, weird line reading, plus an endearing knack for letting his goofy side fly. His jokey side mixes nicely with that of his director, who has one of the oddest senses of humor in the biz. Soderbergh gives "Magic Mike" a deadpan air, plus oddball jokes, like the retro Warner Brothers logo and forcing co-star Matthew McConaughey to mock his own bongo-gate.

The dancing is good

Straight men, don't be so uptight. A solid dance scene is a solid dance scene, and even if you're no great admirer of the male figure, you can enjoy the copious stripping numbers as performances. You can also enjoy them for what they are, namely sequences whose chief visual pleasure is not for straight men. That rarely happens in blockbuster cinema, which is almost uniformly aimed at delighting male teens, or the male teens inside us (maybe). That they're goofy, filled with silly costumes and ridiculous concepts, helps too. If you're a straight male watching "Magic Mike," you can enjoy that someone who isn't you is, for a change, being taken to their own happy place.

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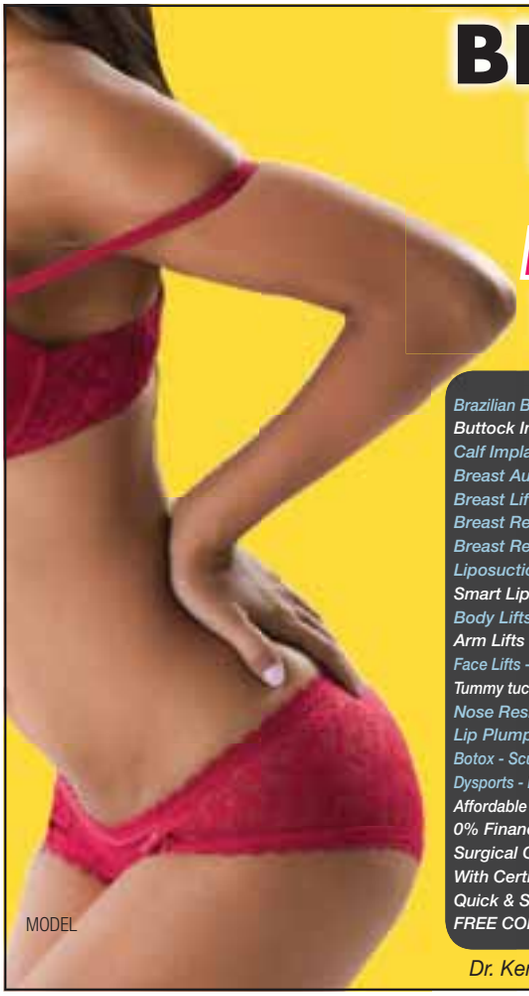

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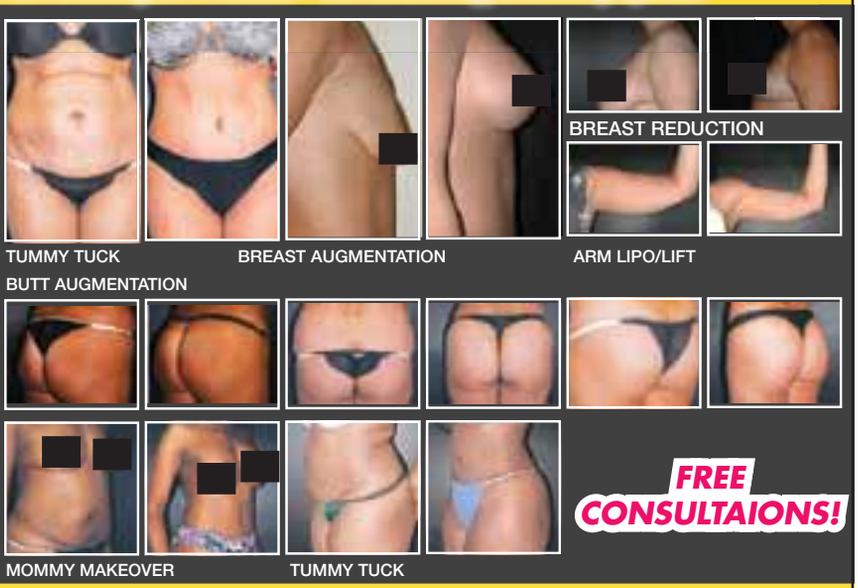

FREE CONSULTAIONS!

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Holly Madison's shocking Playboy confessions

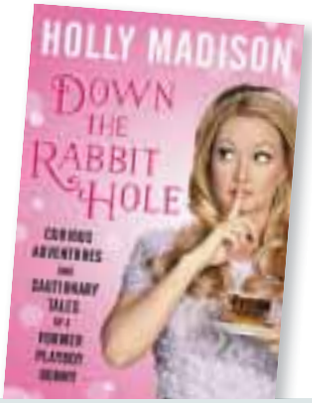
"Down the Rabbit Hole" gives an extremely personal look at what it's really like to be a Playboy bunny.
GETTY IMAGES

Interview. The former Playboy bunny and author of "Down the Rabbit Hole" lets her guard down and gives us an inside look at life at the Playboy mansion.

Former Playboy bunny and "The Girls Next Door" reality star Holly Madison's new tell-all, "Down the Rabbit Hole," just hit bookstores and is already creating enough controversy to elicit comments from fellow former bunny Kendra Wilkinson and even Hugh Hefner himself. We call up Madison to clear the air.

In the book, you describe having sex with Hef, something you never once enjoyed. Did any of the girls enjoy having sex with him?
I don't think so. I felt like all the girls [saw it as] a chore and just wanted to get it over with as soon as possible.

Did drugs play a part in helping the girls get through difficult aspects of the lifestyle?
There were definitely some girls who used drugs at the mansion and offered me drugs. Hef offered me Quaaludes our first night out. [In Madison's book, Hefner is quoted as saying, "In the '70s, they used to call these drugs 'thigh openers.'"] I drank a lot on our nights out because I wasn't always 100 percent comfortable with what was going on. So yeah, I do think drugs probably played a part.



At one point while living at the mansion, you actually contemplated suicide.
It's hard to talk about feeling suicidal because people want to jump down your throat and accuse you of attention-seeking or [just don't] believe you. But I felt so bad about myself and lost to the situation. I felt [tied] to the decisions I made and branded. I was scared to leave.

How did you pull yourself out of such a dark place?
It took a lot. ["The Girls Next Door"] really helped save me because when you film a reality show, you need interesting things to do. We started traveling more. I got a job at the Playboy studios where I was learning and meeting artistic people. Having an actual job helped my self-confidence and helped me grow.

EMILY LAURENCE
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emily.laurence@metro.us

Firing back

The book just came out last week and is already making headlines. Is there anything you've read in the press you want to comment on or clear up?
I'm really, really surprised by how much attention the book is getting. I didn't really think I was relevant and thought the only publicity it would get would be word of mouth. Of course scandalous things come out, and people respond, but I can tell from what they are saying that they haven't actually read the book; they've only read an excerpt or headline. The book is over 300 pages for a reason. I wanted to tell my story. I wanted to be fair about where I was coming from. I wanted to be honest about what my motivations were and the decisions I made. So, I would encourage people to read the whole book before they judge.

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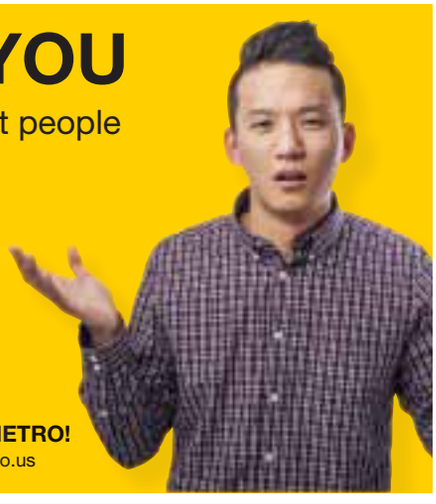

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Manic panic

Film. Mark Ruffalo explores bipolar fatherhood with indie "Infinitely Polar Bear."

RUFFALO
GETTY IMAGES

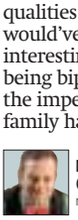
Delving into a character with mental illness can be a tricky business, but Mark Ruffalo had a unique avenue of research for his latest, "Infinitely Polar Bear." First-time writer-director Maya Forbes hired Ruffalo to pretty much play her late father.

The indie calls on Ruffalo to portray Cam Stuart, struggling to raise his two daughters in 1970s Boston while his wife (fellow Marvel stablemate Zoe Saldana) heads to graduate school in New York, and his manic depression wreaks havoc on everyday life.

"I have bipolar family members, so it wasn't totally out of left field," Ruffalo says. "Then I met Maya and started hearing the stories about Cam and watching his Super 8 movies. It just felt like, 'OK, I think I know the way into this.' It feels right to me, and it's not a glossed-over, gilded version that as I get into doing research about, I'm going to find some totally different person, and then there's going to be some conflict between me and Maya about that."

In fact, conflict with Forbes was happily minimal. Ruffalo found her to be incredibly collaborative, something he holds in high regard. "I'd have my moments of rebellion, as any actor should at some point or another, but never felt like our views of it were divergent," he says. "All the great directors that I've worked with are able to take collaboration without being threatened by it. But it's atypical to first-time directors, that openness, to have that kind of strong vision that you're confident to take collaboration from everybody."

For Ruffalo, although the film puts Cam's bipolar disorder front and center, it was important that it didn't totally define the character. "If you have a guy who's an a—hole who's in a wheelchair, he's still an a—hole. And if you have a really nice person in a wheelchair, they're still a really nice person," Ruffalo says. "Yes, who they are is informed by having to live in that wheelchair, but to some degree, who that person is is essentially who they are, and bipolar is something that swings in and out of their life. So for me, the really important thing was getting the specifics of Cam, who Cam was. Cam was this person who had a lot of really interesting qualities about him and would've been a really interesting person without being bipolar. That was the impediment that the family had to deal with."



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Mark Ruffalo, Imogene Wolodarsky and Ashley Aufderheide in "Infinitely Polar Bear." / SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Souring on Sundance

Despite the time he's been devoting to playing an Avenger, Mark Ruffalo still has his feet firmly planted in the independent film world. Last year, for instance, he had a trio of dramas making the festival rounds with "Begin Again," "Foxcatcher" and "Infinitely Polar Bear." That last one, in fact, made its debut at the Sundance Film Festival, a venue Ruffalo knows very well — though the shine might be coming off the Utah-based winter retreat for him. "The sense of competition at Sundance, I think, can be a little toxic amongst the filmmakers," he says. "And then everyone's there trying to sell a movie."

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On her list

Three things Aflalo's loving

1 "I really love gladiator sandals. I'm so happy the ones that go to your knee are back."

Ancient Greek sandals, $395, Net-a-porter.com

2 "I'm so excited that giant boho dresses are back in because then I can eat my cheeseburger and have this giant dress on."

DANIKA DRESS, $228, THEREFORMATION.COM

3 "Mismatching earrings because I always lose earrings, and this is perfect for my one-earring collection."

MISMATCH EARRINGS, $14, TOPSHOP.COM

The rise of Reformation

Eco chic. Our secret go-to shop for glamorous, guilt-free dresses is blowing up.

"The Reformation customer, first and foremost, is confident," says Aflalo. / PROVIDED

Forget fast fashion. At Reformation, it's act-fast fashion.

The eco-friendly brand — a favorite among in-the-know girls — creates limited quantities of its coveted dresses, jumpsuits and crop tops, which sell out in the blink of an eye. "It makes Reformation clothing exclusive," explains founder Yael Aflalo of the brand's quick turnaround.

The company releases small batches of new styles every two to five weeks. How small? Aflalo told the New York Times that there are rarely more than 40 pieces per style and color.

This buy-it-now-or-sorry-sucker format was key to Aflalo, who wants shoppers to breeze into a party in a one-of-a-kind showstopper rather than wearing the same exact number as the next gal.

"When I see thousands of the same dress on a rack — it doesn't matter how beautiful it is — I don't want it," says the 38-year-old.

The party dress, after all, is what Reformation's cult status is built on. Want to turn heads at an upcoming wedding, date night, garden party or weekend rendezvous? The brand's signature long, lean frocks — which channel that Michelle Pfeiffer in "Scarface" glamour with Rihanna's swagger — will come to your rescue.

Not only are Reformation's clothes produced using sustainable fabrics and practices, they're also affordably priced. Most frocks range from $88-$260, and T-shirts start at $28. (No wonder they sell out.)

So far, the formula is working. Aflalo reported $25 million in sales last year. And supermodel Karlie Kloss even signed on as an investor. She's just one of Reformation's many famous fans: Rihanna, Taylor Swift and Rosie Huntington-Whiteley are some of the celebrities who shop at the Los Angeles and New York boutiques.

With several new launches — a petite line, suiting collection and lower-price range — we're guessing you're going to have to hustle extra hard to snag one of the pieces. But walking into your next party will be so worth it.

Quoted

"When I see thousands of the same dress on a rack — it doesn't matter how beautiful it is — I don't want it."

Yael Aflalo

Karlie Kloss / GETTY IMAGES

Jamie Chung / GETTY IMAGES

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Behind the scenes

The fabric

How does your design process work?
We have a pretty big team. We meet and talk about what we're into. We stay away from fantasy stuff and stuff that's not very wearable. Because we have a really quick turnaround — we can make our clothes in two to five weeks — it means we just have to sit and think, "What do I want to wear in two weeks or next month?"

Why was it so important to be sustainable?
To me, being sustainable is an obvious choice. Why would anyone want to contribute to pollution? Being that type of person who was aware and shopped at Whole Foods, I realized that there weren't any options for fashion. I'm drinking a green juice, but I'm walking around in a dress made from chemicals. I knew I had the experience and the passion to create a sustainable company that was also fashionable.

What makes the brand eco-friendly?
We make our clothes three different ways. The first way is we buy vintage clothing, and we repurpose them. The second way is we buy extra fabric from designers. And the third way is from actual sustainable fabric that we've purchased. We go out, we'll find the most sustainable fabrics available, and we'll buy those. That's actually how most of our clothes are made.

CLAUDETTE BARIUS, WARNER BROS.

No 'Magic' to this hardbody

We find out just what it takes to get ripped like the men of "Magic Mike XXL."

ELODIE NOEL, MWN
@metronewyork
letters@metro.us

Celebrity trainer Ron Mathews first started working with Joe Manganiello six years ago, when the actor was cast in HBO's "True Blood."

Back then, Manganiello was 6'5" and weighed 240 pounds, and Mathews remembers him saying, "'I want to get bigger; I want to be muscular.' And I told him, 'Actually, you need to get smaller.'"

It's related to the camera adding 10 pounds: "When you do a slow workout, you tend to look big in person, but you look a bit floppy onscreen," he explains. "Taking his body fat down makes muscles pop onscreen."

What it takes to take it off

But Manganiello had to push his regime (detailed in the book he and Mathews worked on together, "Evolution") even further for the male stripper sequel "Magic Mike XXL."

"For 'Magic Mike,' he wanted to look really big and cut," Mathews says. "It's a very physical role with the dancing; it was about looking good but also moving well with coordination like an athlete. It was about training to be able to perform, as opposed to just standing there in front of the camera and looking good."

Training meant working out six days a week — twice a day. Mornings were cardio (on an empty stomach) then in the afternoon or evening, Manganiello did weight training. The workout takes about an hour, including a warm-up and a cool down, and it is very fast, with few breaks. "The idea is to keep his heart rate very high," says Mathews.

The role of food

The right diet is a huge part of the regimen, and Manganiello was a dream client. "He is incredibly disciplined," says Mathews. "The good thing about him is that he doesn't need a lot of variety, so if you tell him that's what you need to eat, he will do it over and over again."

When you're working toward a fitness goal, Mathews says, food is not for pleasure; it is just another tool. Manganiello ate six meals a day, roughly 500 to 600 calories each with 30 percent protein, 30 percent fat and 40 percent carbs. Each meal was pretty similar and consisted of eggs, chicken, vegetables and rice or potatoes. The calories could also come from a big salad or sushi, as long as you go easy on the rice.

"When trying to lose fat while keeping your muscle, you need to make sure you get enough calories, because if you don't, you will lose muscle," explains Mathews. "You need to be able to maintain your frame and have enough energy to pursue your workout."

The workout

Morning: 40-60 minutes of cardio: jogging, rowing or cycling

Afternoon: A full-body workout with multi-joint exercises (also called compound exercises), made up of movements in which your body must change the angles of more than one joint while performing the motion. It's a highly effective way to engage the entire body.

Example sequence:
- 15 bench presses
- 10 plyometric (clapping) pushups
- 10 regular pushups

Followed by some functional exercises:
- Tire flipping
- Box jumps

Then back on the bench press...

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We're all the stars of our own story, but that's not the only role we play.

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Our story has supporting characters who provide love and assistance, and antagonists who cause us to realize what we're made of and what's really important. Like stories, our lives are filled with suspense. The decisions we make, both big and small, affect our storyline — the relationships we choose, how we spend our days and how we nourish ourselves physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

In fact, creating one's personal myth is a fundamental way in which we find meaning in life. This is not necessarily the stuff of narcissism or navel-gazing. Rather, the more intimate we become with our story, the more we realize that everyone has their own equally valid and important narrative, of which they, too, are the central character. And the more we identify with each other's stories, the more we realize how connected we all are.

Make your story the best it can be. ISTOCK

What if we could transform our character arcs into something worthy of the Hollywood treatment? That's the goal of my new book, "Step Out of Your Story: Writing Exercises to Reframe and Transform Your Life." Thinking of yourself as a character in your life can help you get a novel perspective on situations, and even take your story in exciting new directions.

For example, if you're stuck in a loop, ask yourself these questions, starting with, "If I were a character in a novel or movie ..."

- *What do I hope the hero would do in this situation?*
- *What outcomes would I root for as the viewer of this story?*
- *What might this situation be teaching the hero?*
- *How might he or she make the most of this situation to become a better version of him or herself?*
- *If you're a spiritual person, examine why a benevolent author would place the hero in this particular situation.*

With a little imagination and positively directed self-inquiry, we can transform obstacles into opportunities to break bad habits and improve our character, becoming true heroes of our own living stories.

Once upon a couch

KIM SCHNEIDERMAN, MSW, LCSW
STEPOUTOFYOURSTORY.COM
Kim Schneiderman, LCSW, is a psychotherapist and the author of "Step Out of Your Story: Writing Exercises to Reframe and Transform Your Life." Email Kim your questions at askkim@metro.us.

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Nuestros Niños

Horoscope

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22
Unforeseen events in the workplace will allow you to show off your grace under fire. Your skills and loyalty will be recognized.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22
A positive self-image will help you project confidence, and both your professional and personal lives will benefit as a result.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Expect friction at home if you haven't been fulfilling your responsibilities. You can avoid heated debates by living up to your promises without complaints.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22
Your versatility is being noticed. If you keep presenting your innovative ideas, you will win favor.

♏ Scorpio |Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Seminars will highlight your drive. You will be given the chance to use your excellent communication skills to full advantage when dealing with colleagues.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You will increase your knowledge through travel. Interesting things can be found in exotic locations or unfamiliar places closer to home. Get out.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20 A misunderstanding with a colleague will cause an uncomfortable environment. You can rectify the situation if you deal with issues honestly.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Your fine performance at business meetings or organizational functions will result in positive feedback, giving you inspiration.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20
Putting in long hours at work will win points with your boss, but those you care about will not be impressed.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20
Put your energy to good use tying up loose ends. You will be able to take on extra tasks if you are organized.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21
Stick to your duties. Working alone will allow you to get more done. Others will take advantage of you if you are too easygoing or readily available.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20
Don't be put off if others want to do their own thing. Do something you can enjoy alone, or reflect on the past in order to improve your future. EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

2	6	4		1				
		9				1		
		1	5		7			6
9			8					5
7			9	5	6			8
3					4			9
4			1		3	5		
		5				7		
				7		4	9	1

8					1		6	7
	5		3					
		4	6			3		
4	8		1					6
6	3						8	1
5					8		3	4
		8			5	6		
					4		1	
2	4		7					5

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letter to the editor

The crux of the clause

The first thing to point out is that the definition of marriage is not in the Constitution — it is an opinion. The second is that section one of the 14th amendment states, "The Equal Protection Clause of the 14th amendment of the U.S. Constitution prohibits states from denying any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." See U.S. Const. amend. XIV. In other words, the laws of a state must treat an individual in the same manner as others in similar conditions and circumstances. A violation would occur, for example, if a state prohibited an individual from entering into an employment contract because he or she was a member of a particular race. The equal protection clause is not intended to provide "equality" among individuals or classes but only "equal application" of the laws. The result, therefore, of a law is not relevant so long as there is no discrimination in its application. By denying states the ability to discriminate, the equal protection clause of the Constitution is crucial to the protection of civil rights.

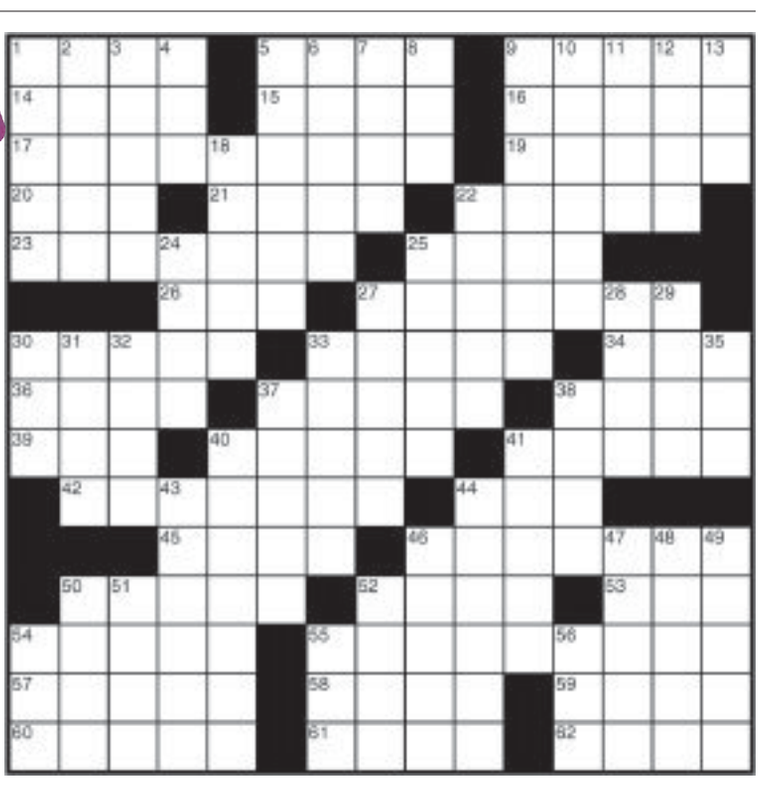
What this essentially means is that states don't have the authority to discriminate, which is what was being done.
BRIAN GRAU, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Crossword

Across
1 Big umbrella
5 Form 1040 experts
9 Teddy bear look-alike
14 Hydrox rival
15 — mater
16 Any of Charlie's girls
17 Blowout or bash
19 Paper quantities
20 Wheel buy (2 wds.)
21 Forest browsers
22 Bumper-car locales
23 Bacon servings
25 Liverpool poky
26 Nutritious grain
27 Work waiting
30 Ski lifts (hyph.)
33 Nick of films
34 Yale athlete
36 Linen vestments
37 Poet — Neruda
38 Aloha in Rome
39 Diner coffee
40 Bayou dish
41 Goes belly up
42 March 17 gab?
44 Brief homily?
45 Raised platform
46 Beauty treatment
50 Mustang
52 Meditation guide
53 Monastic title
54 Princess topper
55 Galvanized
57 Sigh or murmur
58 "Como — usted?"
59 Fix a shirttail
60 Like a bird's eye
61 Charon's river
62 Movie lioness

Down
1 Succeed (2 wds.)
2 Gladiator's place
3 Butte cousins
4 Food cooker
5 Frolic
6 Operates a ferry
7 Tsp. and oz.
8 Right to decide
9 Bar sing-along
10 Dramatist Eugene —
11 Petri-dish contents
12 Moon buggies
13 Unser and Gore
18 Hunches
22 Ipso —
24 — d'oeuvres
25 Ernest or Julio
27 London cop
28 Mademoiselle's eye
29 Very willing
30 — Mahal
31 Splotch
32 Explorer — Tasman
33 Appellations
35 Yellow moths
37 Wars against Carthage
38 Firm, for short
40 Silo, maybe
41 Disgusted (2 wds.)
43 Lit incense to
44 Extra levy
46 Stale and damp
47 Run — of the law
48 Gator cousins
49 "The Castle" author
50 Forkful of food
51 Pro —
52 Wind burst
54 Movie popcorn size
55 Second notes
56 Country addr.



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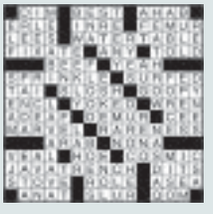

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3 SPORTS

NBA

Knicks go after big guns

The Knicks will be extremely busy when NBA free agency begins on Wednesday as they are expected to meet with both LaMarcus Aldridge and DeAndre Jordan in Los Angeles. Head coach Derek Fisher, president Phil Jackson and GM Steve Mills will be on the recruiting trip, according to ESPN.

Clash of the champions

World Cup. The two premier countries in women's soccer do battle tonight.

Julie Johnston and the U.S. women's soccer team will take on Germany in the World Cup semis tonight. / GETTY IMAGES

In women's international soccer, it doesn't get much bigger than what will be on tap Tuesday (7 p.m., Fox) at Montreal's Olympic Stadium: the U.S. vs. Germany in the 2015 World Cup semifinals. Many soccer experts are treating this as the de facto title game as Germany comes in as the No. 1 ranked team by FIFA and the United States is No. 2. The winner, no doubt, will be favored to go all the way as Japan and England sit on the other side of the bracket.

The Americans and Germans have only met three times in previous Women's World Cups with the U.S. holding a 2-1-0 advantage (all coming in knockout rounds). The U.S. (1991, 1999) and Germany (2003, 2007) are also the most decorated countries at World Cups: They are the only teams to have won the ultimate prize more than once.

"We are facing a match between two top teams that will give nothing away," German defender Leonie Maier said. "It'll be a very tough battle."

Though both clubs were expected to reach this point as soon as the groups were unveiled months ago, each squad had to put in some serious work in the quarterfinals on Friday just to get here. Germany was down 1-0 to France with only a few minutes left in regulation when it tied it on a penalty kick score by star forward Celia Sasic. The Germans then prevailed, 5-4, in penalty kicks (following a scoreless extra time, going 5 for 5 in the shootout. Goalkeeper Nadine Angerer stopped France's Claire Lavogez's shot in the fifth round to end it.

The U.S.' 1-0 win over China wasn't quite as dramatic. Underrated midfielder Carli Lloyd scored on a header in the 51st minute and the Americans recorded their fourth straight shutout (a team-best 423 straight shutout minutes and counting at this World Cup). Defender Kelley O'Hara and forward Amy Rodriguez were surprise starters for the U.S. against China and they brought a noticeable spark in their first action of the tournament. Midfielder Morgan Brian (the youngest player on the U.S. team at 22) also started while Abby Wambach only came on as a substitute in the final few moments. The U.S. managed to survive without suspended midfielders Megan Rapinoe and Lauren Holiday so it'll be interesting to see how head coach Jill Ellis picks her starting lineup for the Germany match.

RICH SLATE
@RichSlate
sports@metro.us

Final Four

The 2015 Women's World Cup is down to four teams.

- The U.S. and Germany will square off tonight in the semifinals (7 p.m., Fox).
- Japan and England go head-to-head Wednesday (7 p.m., FS1)
- The World Cup title game is Sunday, July 5 (7 p.m., Fox).

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MLB

ANTHONY RIZZO
GETTY IMAGES

Rizzo, Cubs invade Queens

The Mets (40-37) will open up a three-game set against the Cubs tonight at Citi Field as Jonathon Niese (3-7, 4.12 ERA) will square off against Chicago's Kyle Hendricks (2-4, 4.46 ERA).

Chicago (39-35) is having one of its best seasons in years but still sits in the middle of a tough NL Central. Anthony Rizzo (.304 BA, 44 RBIs) is having a monster year for the Cubs, leading them in nearly every major offensive category.

MATT BURKE

Jets' quarterback race remains fluid situation

NFL. Geno Smith and Ryan Fitzpatrick are set to go head-to-head.

There will be competition, so says a team source about not just the quarterback situation for the New York Jets but all across the field for a team that is hoping to rebound from last year's 4-12 record. But truthfully, it is all about the quarterback competition.

In recent weeks, the Jets have had to change their narrative about the quarterback position, first after offensive coordinator Chan Gailey said that Geno Smith was the starter and wouldn't lose the job during training camp or pre-season, which then led head coach Todd Bowles to walk-back those statements the following week. Bowles said that Smith entered camp as the starter but didn't make any promises beyond that. Internally, the Jets currently have Smith as the starter over Ryan Fitzpatrick, but a team source tells Metro that it is for depth chart purposes and a way to divvy up reps in camp. It doesn't mean that "he's a lock or whatever to start."

Geno Smith's passer rating actually went up from 2013 to 2014, from 66.5 to 77.5. / GETTY IMAGES

In other words, the source said, things will be fluid.

"It will be a competition, the best man will start," the highly placed source told Metro. "There will be a lot of factors, from performance on the field to the classroom to upside. But one player doesn't have it on lock-down. There will be competition.

"This is true at all positions. Just because you're a draft pick or a high-priced free agent doesn't mean you are guaranteed to start, to have a big role, whatever. This is definitely true at quarterback. Training camp will determine things, preseason games will determine things. That goes for quarterback, it goes for all positions. Everyone is always being evaluated."

When asked if Smith is predetermined to be the starter come Week 1 the source simply said, "No."

KRISTIAN DYER
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Notice of Formation of LWB Hospitality Group LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/09/2014. Office location: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC c/o Larry Weissfeld, 416 Amsterdam Ave. New York, NY 10024. Purpose: any lawful activity.

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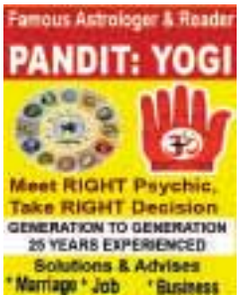
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